III. The proceedings of the Assembly commenced at 12 noon on the 15th February 1915. M. Krishnan Nair Esquire B. A. & B. L., the Dewan, presided. There were present A. T. Forbes Esquire, I. C. S., the Resident in Travancore and Cochin ; Captain E. F. Ross, I. A., Assistant Resident ; M. R. Ry. K. Raman Menon Avergal B. A., B. L., B. C. L., Bar-at-law, the Chief Justice, and other heads of departments and offices and several non-official gentlemen.

IV. The Dewan opened the Assembly with the following—

ADDRESS.

"*Gentlemen,*

PRELIMINARY.

By command of His Highness the Maha Raja, I have the pleasure to welcome you to the Eleventh Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. Copies of the Administration Report for 1089, in English and Malayalam, will be placed in your hands, from which you will learn in detail how the administration of the State was conducted during the year. Dewan Bahadur Mr. P. Rajagopalachari, C. I. E., retired from the office of Dewan on the 11th May 1914/29th Medam 1089, and His Highness the Maha Raja was pleased to appoint me Dewan with effect from that date. The record of work embodied in the Report is, therefore, mainly the result of the wise statesmanship, indefatigable energy and masterly guidance of that capable and experienced administrator. He presided over the deliberations of seven sessions of this Assembly, and you are all aware that every representation received, at his hands, the most serious and careful consideration. I may assure you, gentlemen, that you may count upon my earnest continuance of this policy.

2. Their Excellencies the Governor of Madras and Lady Pentland graciously accepted the invitation of His Highness the Maha Raja and visited the State in October 1914.

3. I feel that I cannot proceed further without referring to the great war in Europe, which for the past six months has been convulsing the whole civilised world. We all realise the brave part that the British Empire plays in this titanic struggle and the cause for which the Empire stands—the cause of honor and humanity, of right and justice. There could be no doubt of the ultimate success of the combined forces of England and her noble allies. We could only pray that the final triumph may not be long deferred. The great wave of loyalty that has swept over India from end to end and has manifested itself, not only by word but by action, has drawn closer the ties which bind our Indian Empire to Great Britain. His Highness the Maha Raja has, as you are aware, placed the resources of the State at the disposal of His Majesty the King-Emperor, and contributed to the War Fund. Your generous response to the appeal made by me for funds in aid of the war has shown how loyally and heartily you sympathise with the noble cause. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the subscriptions up to date have reached the high figure of Rs. 90,000, and I am glad to convey to the public the cordial acknowledgments of His Highness' Government for their liberal and hearty co-operation.

PERSONNEL.

4. Since the last Assembly, there have been some changes in the higher ranks of the public service. Mr. F. J. R. V. Hunt, Officiating Chief Justice of the High Court, left for Europe in December 1914, on three months' privilege leave prior to retirement on pension, after an honorable career in the service. Mr. K. Aiyappan Pillai, B. A., Dewan Peishkar and District Magistrate, retired after a long and faithful service of 34 years. Dr. E. Poonen, Senior Surgeon, General Hospital, Trivandrum, with a record of long and distinguished service, retired into private life on a well-earned pension. Mr. S. E. Vaikuntam Aiyar, B. A., B. C. E., Executive Engineer, D. P. W., an able and hard-working officer, retired on the expiry of the long leave

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which he was compelled to take on account of failing health. Rao Sahib Mr. M. Rama Rao, Conservator of Forests, severed his connection with the State service, on the expiry of his period of deputation. His good work in the development of the Forests of the State, the re-organisation of the department and the enhancement of the forest revenue, has met with the appreciation of His Highness' Government, *vide* the Administration Report of 1088. Major W. H. Tucker, I. M. S., Darbar Physician, whose services were lent to the State, was recalled to military duty. Lastly, I grieve to record the sudden and tragic death of M. R. Ry. Kerala Varma Avl., C. S. I., Valia Koil Tampuran. He was the Adviser to Government in matters appertaining to Vernacular Literature. A ripe scholar and deep thinker, he devoted his long life and rare talents to the cause of Malayalam and Sanskrit literature, and the void left by him is one that will not be easily filled. His memory will live in the hearts of his countrymen.

FINANCIAL.

5. The State Revenue rose from Rs. 1,48,11,690 to Rs. 1,54,74,665 and the expenditure from Rs. 1,45,98,015 to Rs. 1,57,12,790. The transactions of the year have thus resulted in a deficit of Rs. 2,38,125, reducing the Government Balance from Rs. 77, 91,725 at the beginning of 1089 to Rs. 75,53,600 at its close. This deficit, however, is only apparent, as two items of expenditure on reproductive works, viz., the Kodayar Project (Rs. 3,15,437) and the Quilon-Trivandrum Extension of the State Railway (Rs. 5,30,065) were met from the General Revenues. If these items be excluded, the transactions would show a surplus of Rs. 6,07,377. At the same time, it should be recognised that, while the revenue during the last six years has increased by only 31·5 per cent, the expenditure has risen by 40·4 per cent. The surplus at the disposal of the Government is small and will have to be largely drawn upon for the construction of the Quilon-Trivandrum Extension of the Railway. The war has materially affected the receipts under Customs and other heads of revenue, owing to the depression of trade, and it is apprehended that there will be considerable decline in the receipts during the year, while, on the other hand, it is not possible to make any great retrenchment in the expenditure required to meet the needs of a progressive administration. The Government have before them a grave and difficult problem in balancing the finances of the State.

MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.

6. **Land.**—The net revenue demand fell from Rs. 38,28,008 in 1088 to Rs. 37,41,054, or by Rs. 86,954. The decrease is partly apparent, being due to the transfer, for the first time, of the assessment on, and the sale proceeds of, the obsolete tank-beds assigned for cultivation within the area commanded by the Kodayar Project from "Land Revenue" to "Irrigation and other Reproductive works," and partly real, being the result of a perceptible rise under seasonal remissions in the Padmanabhapuram and Quilon Divisions, owing to unfavourable seasons during the year. Including the arrear demand of Rs. 69,434, the total demand for 1089 was Rs. 38,10,488, of which a sum of Rs. 36,42,661 was collected and Rs. 69,434 written off, leaving a balance of Rs. 98,393 at the close of the year, against Rs. 69,434 at the close of 1088. The rise in the pending balance was, however, only apparent, as the recovery of the bulk of the amount, consisting of *tharavila* and other dues on *puduval* lands, was ordered to be made in instalments as a measure of relief to the ryots. There was a marked reduction in the volume of coercive action taken under the Revenue Recovery Regulation. The *tharavila* on cardamom lands was raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per acre. The disposal of applications for cardamom lands was slow, and the Government have insisted on prompt action being taken in this direction. New rules relating to *kuthagapattom*, *karampathippu*, transfer of registry and grants of remission, and revised rules under the Land Conservancy Regulation were passed during the year. Revised *puduval* rules have also been passed since the close of the year. With the increased powers now granted to Revenue officers in the matter of the registry of *puduval* lands, it should be possible for them to

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